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E-filing

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

MEJ

MARSHALL LOSKOT,

Plaintiff,

v.

**TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., a
 California Corporation, dba TAQUERIA EL
 FAROLITO #5, KANAAN JAJEH and
 RIMONA JAJEH, individually and as
 Trustees of the KANAAN JAJEH FAMILY
 TRUST, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive,**

Defendants.

Case No.

CV 09

4386

**COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
 AND DAMAGES: DENIAL OF CIVIL
 RIGHTS OF A DISABLED PERSON IN
 VIOLATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH
 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990; VIOLATION
 OF CALIFORNIA'S CIVIL RIGHTS
 STATUTES**

JURY TRIAL REQUESTED

Plaintiff **MARSHALL LOSKOT** complains of defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., a California Corporation, dba TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5, KANAAN JAJEH and RIMONA JAJEH, individually and as Trustees of the KANAAN JAJEH FAMILY TRUST, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive,** and alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 **USC** § 1331 for violations of the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, (42 **USC** § 12101, *et seq.*) Pursuant to pendant jurisdiction, attendant and related causes of action, arising from the same facts, are also brought under California law, including, but not limited to, violations of **California Health & Safety Code** § 19955, *et seq.*, including **California Code of Regulations**, Title 24, § 19959,

1 **California Civil Code** §§ 51, 51.5, 52(a), 52.1, 54, 54.1, 54.3 and 55.

2 2. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 **USC** § 1391(b) and is founded on the
3 fact that the real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district, in South
4 San Francisco, San Mateo County, California, and that Plaintiff's causes of action arose in this
5 district.

6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 3. **TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5** is located at 394 Grand Ave., South San
8 Francisco, California. Said restaurant is owned and operated by defendants **TAQUERIAS EL**
9 **FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA JAJEH, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive.**

10 4. Defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA**
11 **JAJEH, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive,** operate an establishment for services to the
12 public and at which Defendants failed to provide barrier free access to said establishment in
13 conformity with both Federal and California legal requirements. Further, Defendants failed to
14 provide compliance as follows:

15 **Exterior**

- 16 1) The entrance ramp is too steep for wheelchair occupants in violation of
California Title 24 §1133B.5.3, ADAAG 4.8.2, 4.1.6(3)(a).
- 17 2) The primary entrance is without the required level area needed for wheel
18 chair occupants to maneuver in violation of California Title 24 §
1133B.2.4.2, 1133B. 5.4.1, ADAAG 4.8.4 (4), 4.13.6 (fig.25).
- 19 3) The primary entrance door is without the posted International Symbol of
20 Accessibility in violation of California Title 24 § 1117B.5.8.1.2, 1117B.5.7,
ADAAG 4.30.7*(1) (Fig. 43(a)), 4.30.6.

21 **Interior**

- 22 4) There is no accessible seating for wheelchair occupants in the restaurant
23 in violation of California Title 24 §1122B.1, ADAAG 5.1, 4.32.
- 24 5) The salsa bar is too high, not accessible to wheelchair occupants, in
violation of California Title 24 §1122B.4, ADAAG 5.6, 4.32.4.

25 **Restroom**

- 26 6) The restroom is not accessible in violation of California Title 24 §1115B.2
27 (Fig. 11B-1A), ADAAG 4.1.2(6), 4.22.1.
- 28 7) The restroom door entrance is too narrow in violation of in violation of
California Title 24 §1133B.1.1.1.1, ADAAG 4.13.5.

- 8) There is no International Symbol of Accessibility signage on the restroom door in violation of California Title 24 §1117B.5.7, ADAAG 4.30.6, 4.30.7* (1) (Fig. 43(a)).
- 9) There is not enough clear space between the toilet and the lavatory for a wheel chair occupant to transfer in violation of California Title 24 §1115B.7.2 (Fig. 11B-1A).
- 10) There are no grab bars in the toilet area in violation of California Title 24 §1115B.8.1 (Fig. 11B-1A), ADAAG 4.16.4.
- 11) The paper towel dispensers are mounted too high in violation of California Title 24 §1115B.9.2.
- 12) The lavatory faucets require tight grasping and pinching or twisting of the wrist in violation of California Title 24 §1115B.2.1.2.1, ADAAG 4.19.5.
- 13) The drainage and hot water pipes under the lavatory are exposed in violation of California Title 24 §1115B.2.1.2.2, ADAAG 4.19.4.

The above barriers interfered with Plaintiff's access of the facilities and continue to deter Plaintiff from visiting said facilities, and as a legal result, Plaintiff **MARSHALL LOSKOT** suffers violations of his civil rights to full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, facilities and privileges, and has and will suffer embarrassment and humiliation.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

5. Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, is, and at all times relevant to this Complaint is, a "physically handicapped person," "physically disabled person," and a "person with a disability," as these terms are used under California law and under federal laws including, but not limited to, Title III of the ***Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990***. (The terms "physically handicapped person," "physically disabled person," and a "person with a disability" will be used interchangeably throughout this Complaint.) Plaintiff is a "person with a disability" as defined by all applicable California and United States' laws. Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, is severely limited in the use of his legs.

6. Defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA JAJEH, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive**, at all times relevant herein were and are the

1 owners and operators; lessors and/or lessees, franchisers and/or franchisees, of public
2 facilities known as the "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" located at South San Francisco,
3 California, subject to the requirements of California state law requiring full and equal access to
4 public facilities pursuant to **California Health & Safety Code** §19955, *et seq.*, **California Civil**
5 **Code** §§51, 51.5, 52(a), 52.1, 54, 54.1, 54.3 and 55, and subject to Title III of the **Americans**
6 **with Disabilities Act of 1990**, and to all other legal requirements referred to in this Complaint.
7 Plaintiff does not know the relative responsibilities of defendants in the operation of the
8 facilities herein complained of, and alleges a joint venture and common enterprise by all such
9 defendants.

10 7. Defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA**
11 **JAJEH, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive** (hereinafter alternatively referred to collectively
12 as "defendants"), at all times relevant herein were and are owners, possessors, builders and
13 keepers of the "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" in South San Francisco, California.

14 8. Defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA**
15 **JAJEH, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive** are the owners and operators of the subject
16 "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" at all times relevant to this Complaint. Plaintiff is informed
17 and believes that each of the defendants herein is the agent, employee or representative of
18 each of the other defendants, and performed all acts and omissions stated herein within the
19 scope of such agency or employment or representative capacity and is responsible in some
20 manner for the acts and omissions of the other defendants in legally causing the damages
21 complained of herein, and have approved or ratified each of the acts or omissions of each
22 other defendant, as herein described.

23 9. Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, does not know the true names and capacities of
24 defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA JAJEH, and**
25 **DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive**, their business capacities, their ownership connection to the
26 property and business, nor their relative responsibilities in causing the access violations herein
27 complained of, and alleges a joint venture and common enterprise by all such defendants.
28 Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the defendants herein, including **DOES ONE to**

1 FIFTY, inclusive, is the agent, ostensible agent, master, servant, employer, employee,
 2 representative, franchiser, franchisee, joint venturer, partner, and associate, or such similar
 3 capacity, of each of the other defendants, and was at all times acting and performing, or failing
 4 to act or perform, with the authorization, consent, permission or ratification of each of the other
 5 defendants, and is responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions of the other
 6 defendants in legally causing the violations and damages complained of herein, and have
 7 approved or ratified each of the acts or omissions of each other defendant, as herein
 8 described. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this Complaint when the true names, capacities,
 9 connections and responsibilities of defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN**
 10 **JAJEH, RIMONA JAJEH, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive,** are ascertained.

11 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes that all named defendants, including **DOES**
 12 **ONE to FIFTY, inclusive,** conspired to commit the acts described herein, or alternatively,
 13 aided and abetted one another in the performance of the wrongful acts hereinafter alleged.

14 11. Defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA**
 15 **JAJEH, and DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive,** are the owners and operators of the
 16 "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" located at South San Francisco, California. This restaurant,
 17 including, but not limited to access routes, are each a part of a "public accommodation or
 18 facility" subject to the requirements of *California Health & Safety Code* §19955, *et seq.*, and
 19 of *California Civil Code* §§51, 52(a), 54, 54.1, *et seq.* On information and belief, this
 20 "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" was constructed after 1990, which has subjected the
 21 "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" to handicapped access requirements per *California Health &*
 22 *Safety Code* §19959, and applicable portions of *California Code of Regulations*, Title 24,
 23 (the State Building Code).

24 12. On or about June 22, 2009, Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, visited the
 25 "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" in South San Francisco, California, for the purpose of dining.
 26 Defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA JAJEH, and**
 27 **DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive,** interfered with Plaintiff's access to the "**TAQUERIA EL**
 28 **FAROLITO #5**" as set forth in Paragraph 4 above.

1 Said acts and omissions denied Plaintiff legal handicapped access to the "TAQUERIA
2 **EL FAROLITO #5**" according to federal and state law.

3 13. Plaintiff's home, in Platina, California, is approximately 251 miles from the
4 "TAQUERIA **EL FAROLITO #5**" in South San Francisco, California. Plaintiff travels regularly
5 to South San Francisco for pleasure and business. Plaintiff intends to return to "TAQUERIA
6 **EL FAROLITO #5**" in South San Francisco, California, when this public accommodation is
7 made accessible.

8 14. Plaintiff encountered and/or is informed and believes that the following
9 architectural barriers, which violate the requirements of the *California Code of Regulations*
10 Title 24 and *ADAAG*, existed and continue to exist thereby denying Plaintiff and those similarly
11 situated full and equal access to the subject public facility as set forth in Paragraph 4 above.

12 15. Defendants, and each of them, discriminated against Plaintiff, **MARSHALL**
13 **LOSKOT**, on the basis of his physical disability, and interfered with his access to the
14 "TAQUERIA **EL FAROLITO #5**" establishment, in violation of both California law including, but
15 not limited to, *California Civil Code* §§51, 51.5, 54, 54.1, and a violation of Title III, §302, the
16 "Prohibition of Discrimination" provision and §503, the "Prohibition Against Retaliation or
17 Coercion" provision of the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*.

18 16. As a result of the actions and failure to act of defendants, and each of them, and
19 as a result of the failure to provide proper signage, proper accessible entryways, and
20 accessible accommodations for a restaurant, Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, suffered and will
21 suffer a loss of his civil rights to full and equal access to public facilities, and further suffered
22 and will suffer emotional distress, mental distress, mental suffering, mental anguish, which
23 includes shame, humiliation, embarrassment, anger, chagrin, disappointment and worry,
24 expectedly and naturally associated with a person with a disability being denied access to a
25 public accommodation, all to his damages as prayed hereinafter in an amount within the
26 jurisdiction of this court.

27 I. **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**
28 VIOLATION OF *THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990*
(42 USC §12101 et seq.)

1 17. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein,
2 the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 16 of this Complaint and incorporates them
3 herein as if separately repled.

4 18. Pursuant to law, in 1990 the United States Congress made findings per 42 **USC**
5 §12101 regarding persons with physical disabilities, finding that laws were needed to more fully
6 protect 43 million Americans with one or more physical or mental disabilities; [that] historically
7 society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities; [that] such forms of
8 discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social
9 problem; [that] the nation's proper goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure
10 equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency for
11 such individuals; [and that] the continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary discrimination
12 and prejudice denies people with disabilities the opportunity to compete on an equal basis and
13 to pursue those opportunities for which our free society is justifiably famous.

14 19. Congress stated as its purpose in passing the **Americans with Disabilities Act**
15 **of 1990 (42 USC §12102)**:

16 It is the purpose of this act (1) to provide a clear and comprehensive
17 national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with
18 disabilities; (2) to provide clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards
19 addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities; (3) to ensure that
20 the Federal government plays a central role in enforcing the standards
21 established in this act on behalf of individuals with disabilities; and (4) to invoke
22 the sweep of Congressional authority, including the power to enforce the 14th
23 Amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of
24 discrimination faced day to day by people with disabilities.

25 20. As part of the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, Public Law 101-336
26 (hereinafter the "ADA"), Congress passed "Title III - Public Accommodations and Services
27 Operated by Private Entities" (42 **USC** §12181, *et seq.*). Among the public accommodations
28 identified for purposes of this title were "...a restaurant, bar, or other establishment serving
food or drink;"

29 21. Pursuant to 42 **USC** §12182,

30 "No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in
the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges,
advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any

person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation."

22. Among the general prohibitions against discrimination were included in 42 USC §12182(b)(1)(A)(i):

Denial of participation. It shall be discriminatory to subject an individual or class of individuals on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, to a denial of the opportunity of the individual or class to participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of an entity.

23. Among the general prohibitions against discrimination were included in 42 USC §12182(b)(1)(E):

Association -- It shall be discriminatory to exclude or otherwise deny equal goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, accommodations, or other opportunities to an individual or entity because of the known disability of an individual with whom the individual or entity is known to have a relationship or association.

The acts of defendants set forth herein were a violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA, Public Law 101-336, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 28 CFR Part 36 et seq.

24. Among the general prohibitions against discrimination were included in 42 USC §12182(b)(2)(A)(i) and 42 USC §12182(b)(2)(A)(ii):

Discrimination. For purposes of subsection (a), discrimination includes -

(i) the imposition or application of eligibility criteria that screen out or tend to screen out an individual with a disability or any class of individuals with disabilities from fully and equally enjoying any goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations, unless such criteria can be shown to be necessary for the provision of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations being offered;

(ii) a failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations.

25. Plaintiff alleges that constructing the eligibility requirements, policies, practices and procedure for entry to the "TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5" facility by persons with disabilities and their companions as established by the defendants can be simply modified to eliminate disparate and discriminatory treatment of persons with disabilities by properly

1 constructing barrier free handicapped access for safe and full and equal enjoyment of the
 2 "TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5" as that enjoyed by other people.

3 26. The specific prohibition against retaliation and coercion is included in the
 4 ***Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990*** §503(b) and the *Remedies and Procedures* in
 5 §503(c):

6 (b) Interference, Coercion, or Intimidation. - It shall be unlawful to
 7 coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any individual in the exercise or
 8 enjoyment of, or on account of his or her having exercised or enjoyed, or on
 9 account of his or her having aided or encouraged any other individual in the
 10 exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected by this Act.

11 (c) Remedies and Procedure. - The remedies and procedures
 12 available under sections 107, 203, and 308 of this Act shall be available to
 13 aggrieved persons for violations of subsections (a) and (b), with respect to Title I,
 14 Title II and Title III, respectively.

15 27. Among the specific prohibitions against discrimination were included, in 42 **USC**
 16 §12182(b)(2)(a)(iv), "A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communications barriers
 17 that are structural in nature, in existing facilities...where such removal is readily achievable;"
 18 and (v) "where and entity can demonstrate that the removal of a barrier under clause (iv) is not
 19 readily achievable, a failure to make such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or
 20 accommodations available through alternative methods if such methods are readily
 21 achievable." The acts of Defendants set forth herein were a violations of Plaintiff's rights under
 22 the "ADA," Public Law 101-336, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 28 **CFR** Part 36,
 23 *et seq.*

24 28. The removal of the barriers complained of by Plaintiff as hereinabove alleged
 25 were at all times after 1990 "readily achievable." On information and belief, if the removal of all
 26 the barriers complained of here together were not "readily achievable," the removal of each
 27 individual barrier complained of herein was "readily achievable."

28 29. Per 42 **USC** §12181(9), "The term 'readily achievable' means easily
 accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense." The statute and
 attendant regulations define relative "expense" in relation to the total financial resources of the
 entities involved, including any "parent" companies. Plaintiff alleges that properly repairing

1 each of the items that Plaintiff complains of herein is readily achievable, including, but not
2 limited to, correcting and repairing the items set forth in Paragraph 4 above.

3 The changes needed to remove barriers to access for the disabled were and are
4 "readily achievable" by the defendants under standards set forth under 42 **USC** §12181 of the
5 **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**. (Further, if it was not "readily achievable" for
6 defendants to remove all such barriers, defendants have failed to make the required services
7 available through alternative methods, although such methods are achievable as required by
8 42 **USC** §12181(b)(2)(a)(iv), (v).)

9 30. Pursuant to the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, §308 (42 **USC**
10 §12188 *et seq.*), Plaintiff is entitled to the remedies and procedures set forth in the **Civil**
11 **Rights Act of 1964** §204(a), (42 **USC** §2000a-3(a)), as Plaintiff is being subjected to
12 discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of this title and/or Plaintiff has reasonable
13 grounds for believing that he is about to be subjected to discrimination in violation of
14 **Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990** §302. Plaintiff cannot return to or make use of the
15 public facilities complained of herein for the purpose of entry and provision of goods and
16 service so long as defendants continue to apply eligibility criteria, policies, practices and
17 procedures to screen out and refuse to allow entry and service to persons with disabilities such
18 as Plaintiff's.

19 31. Defendants', and each of their acts and omissions of failing to provide barrier free
20 handicapped access for Plaintiff, were tantamount to interference, coercion or intimidation
21 pursuant to **Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990** §503(b) (now 42 **USC** §12203):

22 It shall be unlawful to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any
23 individual in the exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of his or her having
24 aided or encouraged any other individual in the exercise or enjoyment of, any
25 right granted or protected by this Act.

26 32. Per **Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990** §308(a)(1) (now 42 **USC** §12188),
27 "Nothing in this section shall require a person with a disability to engage in a futile gesture if
28 such person has actual notice that a person or organization covered by this title does not
intend to comply with its provisions." Pursuant to this last section, Plaintiff, on information and

1 belief, alleges that defendants have continued to violate the law and deny the rights of Plaintiff
 2 and other disabled persons to access this public accommodation for the purpose of dining.
 3 Therefore, Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief pursuant to §308(a)(2),

4 "...Where appropriate, injunctive relief shall also include requiring the
 5 provision of an auxiliary aid or service, modifications of a policy, or provision of
 6 alternative methods, to the extent required by this title."

7 33. Plaintiff seeks relief pursuant to remedies set forth in §204(a) of the **Civil Rights**
 8 **Act of 1964** (42 USC §2000a-3(a), and pursuant to federal regulations adopted to implement
 9 the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, including, but not limited to, an order granting
 10 injunctive relief and attorneys' fees. Such attorneys' fees, "including litigation expenses and
 11 costs," are further specifically provided for by §505 of Title III.

12 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for damages as hereinafter stated.

13 II. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

14 BREACH OF STATUTORY PROTECTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL
 15 DISABILITIES (**California Health & Safety Code** §19955, *et seq.*)

16 34. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein,
 17 the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 33 of this Complaint and incorporates them
 18 herein as if separately repled.

19 35. **California Health & Safety Code** §19955 provides in pertinent part:

20 The purpose of this part is to insure that public accommodations or
 21 facilities constructed in this state with private funds adhere to the provisions of
 22 Chapter 7 (commencing with Sec. 4450) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the
 23 *Government Code*. For the purposes of this part "public accommodation or
 24 facilities" means a building, structure, facility, complex, or improved area which is
 25 used by the general public and shall include auditoriums, hospitals, theaters,
 26 restaurants, hotels, motels, stadiums, and convention centers. When sanitary
 27 facilities are made available for the public, clients or employees in such
 28 accommodations or facilities, they shall be made available for the handicapped.

36. **California Health & Safety Code** §19956, which appears in the same chapter
 as §19955, provides in pertinent part, "accommodations constructed in this state shall conform
 to the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Sec. 4450) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the
Government Code..." **California Health & Safety Code** §19956 was operative July 1, 1970,
 and is applicable to all public accommodations constructed or altered after that date. On

1 information and belief, portions of "TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5" and/or of its buildings, were
2 constructed and/or altered after July 1, 1970, and substantial portions of said building had
3 alterations, structural repairs, and/or additions made to such public accommodations after July
4 1, 1970, thereby requiring said public accommodations and/or buildings to be subject to the
5 requirements of Part 5.5, **California Health & Safety Code** §19955, *et seq.*, upon such
6 alteration, structural repairs or additions per **California Health & Safety Code** §19959.

7 37. Pursuant to the authority delegated by **California Government Code** §4450, *et*
8 *seq.*, the State Architect promulgated regulations for the enforcement of these provisions.
9 Effective January 1, 1982, Title 24 of the **California Administrative Code** adopted the
10 California State Architect's Regulations and these regulations must be complied with as to any
11 alterations and/or modifications of the "TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5" occurring after that
12 date. Construction changes occurring prior to this date but after July 1, 1970, triggered access
13 requirements pursuant to the "ASA" requirements, the **American Standards Association**
14 **Specifications**, A117.1-1961. On information and belief, at the time of the construction and
15 modification of said building, all buildings and facilities covered were required to conform to
16 each of the standards and specifications described in the **American Standards Association**
17 **Specifications** and/or those contained in Title 24 of the **California Administrative Code**,
18 (now known as Title 24, **California Code of Regulations**.)

19 38. Public facilities, such as "TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5" are public
20 accommodations or facilities within the meaning of **California Health & Safety Code** §19955,
21 *et seq.*

22 39. It is difficult or impossible for persons with physical disabilities who use
23 wheelchairs, canes, walkers and service animals to travel about in public to use a restaurant
24 with the defects set forth in Paragraph 4 above as required by Title 24 of the **California Code**
25 **of Regulations** and the **Americans with Disabilities Act Access Guidelines (ADAAG)**.
26 Thus, when public accommodations fail to provide handicap accessible public facilities,
27 persons with disabilities are unable to enter and use said facilities, and are denied full and
28 equal access to and use of that facility that is enjoyed by other members of the general public.

1 40. Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, and other similarly situated persons with
2 physical disabilities whose physical conditions require the use of wheelchairs, canes, walkers
3 and service animals are unable to use public facilities on a "full and equal" basis unless each
4 such facility is in compliance with the provisions of the **California Health & Safety Code**
5 §19955, *et seq.* Plaintiff is a member of that portion of the public whose rights are protected by
6 the provisions of **California Health & Safety Code** §19955, *et seq.*

7 41. The **California Health & Safety Code** was enacted "[t]o ensure that public
8 accommodations or facilities constructed in this state with private funds adhere to the
9 provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with §4450) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the *Government*
10 *Code.*" Such public accommodations are defined to include restaurants.

11 42. Plaintiff is further informed and believes that as of the date of filing this
12 Complaint, Defendants have not made accessible the facilities at the subject restaurant as set
13 forth in Paragraph 4 above.

14 43. Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, is informed and believes, and therefore alleges,
15 that Defendants **TAQUERIAS EL FAROLITO INC., KANAAN JAJEH, RIMONA JAJEH, and**
16 **DOES ONE to FIFTY, inclusive**, and each of them, caused the subject buildings constituting
17 "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" to be constructed, altered and maintained in such a manner
18 that persons with physical disabilities were denied full and equal access to, within and
19 throughout said buildings and were denied full and equal use of said public facilities, and
20 despite knowledge and actual and constructive notice to such Defendants that the
21 configuration of the restaurant and/or buildings was in violation of the civil rights of persons
22 with physical disabilities, such as Plaintiff. Such construction, modification, ownership,
23 operation, maintenance and practices of such public facilities are in violation of law as stated in
24 Part 5.5, **California Health & Safety Code** §19955, *et seq.*, and elsewhere in the laws of
25 California.

26 44. On information and belief, the subject building constituting the public facilities of
27 "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" denied full and equal access to Plaintiff and other persons
28 with physical disabilities in other respects due to non-compliance with requirement of Title 24

1 of the **California Code of Regulations** and **California Health & Safety Code** §19955, *et seq.*

2 45. The basis of Plaintiff's aforementioned information and belief is the various
3 means upon which Defendants must have acquired such knowledge, including, but not limited
4 to, this lawsuit, other access lawsuits, communications with operators of other restaurants and
5 other property owners regarding denial access, communications with Plaintiff and other
6 persons with disabilities, communications with other patrons who regularly visit there,
7 communications with owners of other businesses, notices and advisories they obtained from
8 governmental agencies through the mails, at seminars, posted bulletins, television, radio,
9 public service announcements, or upon modification, improvement, alteration or substantial
10 repair of the subject premises and other properties owned by these Defendants, newspaper
11 articles and trade publications regarding the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** and
12 other access law, and other similar information. The scope and means of the knowledge of
13 each defendant is within each defendant's exclusive control and cannot be ascertained except
14 through discovery.

15 46. As a result of Defendants' acts and omissions in this regard, Plaintiff has been
16 required to incur legal expenses and hire attorneys in order to enforce his civil rights and
17 enforce provisions of the law protecting access for persons with physical disabilities and
18 prohibiting discrimination against persons with physical disabilities, and to take such action
19 both in his own interests and in order to enforce an important right affecting the public interest.
20 Plaintiff, therefore, seeks damages in this lawsuit for recovery of all reasonable attorneys' fees
21 incurred, pursuant to the provisions of the **California Code of Civil Procedure** §1021.5.
22 Plaintiff additionally seeks attorneys' fees pursuant to **California Health & Safety Code**
23 §19953 and **California Civil Code** §§54.3 and 55.

24 47. Defendants, and each of them, at times prior to and including June 22, 2009, and
25 continuing to the present time, knew that persons with physical disabilities were denied their
26 rights of equal access to all portions of this public facility. Despite such knowledge,
27 Defendants failed and refused to take steps to comply with the applicable access statutes; and
28 despite knowledge of the resulting problems and denial of civil rights thereby suffered by

1 Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, and other similarly situated persons with disabilities, including
2 the specific notices referred to in paragraph 43 of this Complaint. Defendants have failed and
3 refused to take action to grant full and equal access to persons with physical disabilities in the
4 respects complained of hereinabove. Defendants and each of them have carried out a course
5 of conduct of refusing to respond to, or correct complaints about, denial of handicap access.
6 Such actions and continuing course of conduct by Defendants, evidence despicable conduct in
7 conscious disregard for the rights or safety of Plaintiff and of other similarly situated persons,
8 justifying an award of treble damages pursuant to **California Civil Code** §54.3.

9 48. Defendants' actions have also been oppressive to persons with physical
10 disabilities and of other members of the public, and have evidenced actual or implied malicious
11 intent toward those members of the public, such as Plaintiff and other persons with physical
12 disabilities who have been denied the proper access they are entitled to by law. Further,
13 Defendants' refusals on a day-to-day basis to correct these problems evidence despicable
14 conduct in conscious disregard for the rights of Plaintiff and other members of the public with
15 physical disabilities.

16 49. Plaintiff prays for an award of treble damages against Defendants, and each of
17 them, pursuant to **California Civil Code** §54.3 in an amount sufficient to make a more
18 profound example of Defendants and discourage owners, operators, franchisers and
19 franchisees of other public facilities from willful disregard of the rights of persons with physical
20 disabilities.

21 50. As a result of the actions and failure of Defendants, and each of them, and as a
22 result of the failure to provide proper accessible public facilities, Plaintiff, **MARSHALL**
23 **LOSKOT**, was denied his civil rights, including his right to full and equal access to public
24 facilities, was embarrassed and humiliated, suffered psychological and mental injuries and
25 emotional distress, mental distress, mental suffering, mental anguish, which includes shame,
26 humiliation, embarrassment, anger, chagrin, disappointment and worry, expectedly and
27 naturally associated with a person with a physical disability being denied access to a public
28 accommodation.

1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for damages as hereinafter stated.

2 **III. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S CIVIL RIGHTS ACTS
 4 (*California Civil Code* §§54, 54.1 and 54.3)

5 51. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference as if fully set forth again herein,
 6 the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 50 of this Complaint and incorporates them
 7 herein as if separately repled.

8 52. The public facilities above-described constitute public facilities and public
 9 accommodations within the meaning of *California Health & Safety Code* §19955, *et seq.*, and
 10 are facilities to which members of the public are invited. The aforementioned acts and
 11 omissions of defendants, and each of them, constitute a denial of equal access to and use and
 12 enjoyment of these facilities by persons with disabilities, including Plaintiff, **MARSHALL**
 13 **LOSKOT**. Said acts and omissions are also in violation of provisions of Title 24 of the
 14 *California Code of Regulations*.

15 53. The rights of Plaintiff, the entitlement of Plaintiff to full and equal access and the
 16 denial by defendants of such rights and entitlements are set forth in *California Civil Code*
 17 §§54, 54.1 and 54.3, to wit:

18 Individuals with disabilities shall have the same right as the...general
 19 public to full and free use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public
 20 buildings, public facilities, and other public places. *California Civil Code* §54(a).

21 Individuals with disabilities shall be entitled to full and equal access, as
 22 other members of the general public, to accommodations, advantages, facilities,
 23 and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains,
 24 motor buses, streetcars, boats, or any other public conveyances or modes of
 25 transportation (whether private, public, franchised, licensed, contracted, or
 26 otherwise provided), telephone facilities, adoption agencies, private schools,
 27 hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement or resort,
 28 and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the
 conditions and limitations established by law, or state or federal regulation, and
 applicable alike to all persons. *California Civil Code* §54.1(a).

54. On or about June 22, 2009, Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, suffered violations
 of *California Civil Code* §§54 and 54.1 in that he was denied full and equal enjoyment of the
 goods, services, facilities and privileges of said **TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**, as set forth in
 paragraph 4 above.

1 Plaintiff was also denied full and equal access to other particulars, including, but not
2 limited to, those described hereinabove. Plaintiff was also denied use of facilities that he was
3 entitled to under Title III of the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**.

4 55. As a result of the denial of full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services,
5 facilities and privileges of defendants' **TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5** due to the acts and
6 omissions of defendants, and each of them, in owning, operating and maintaining this subject
7 public facility, Plaintiff suffered violations of his civil rights, including, but not limited to, rights
8 under **California Civil Code** §§54, 54.1, and 54.3, and has and will suffer emotional distress,
9 mental distress, mental suffering, mental anguish, which includes shame, humiliation,
10 embarrassment, anger, chagrin, disappointment and worry, expectedly and naturally
11 associated with a disabled person's denial of full and equal enjoyment of goods, services,
12 privileges, etc. all to his damages as prayed hereinafter in an amount within the jurisdiction of
13 the court. Defendants' actions and omissions to act constituted discrimination against Plaintiff
14 on the sole basis that Plaintiff is disabled.

15 56. Plaintiff seeks damages for the violation of his rights as a disabled person on or
16 about June 22, 2009, according to proof, pursuant to **California Civil Code** §54.3, including a
17 trebling of all statutory and actual damages, general and special, available pursuant to
18 **California Civil Code** §54.3(a).

19 57. As a result of defendants' acts and omissions in this regard, Plaintiff **MARSHALL**
20 **LOSKOT** has been required to incur legal expenses and hire attorneys in order to enforce his
21 rights and enforce provisions of the law protecting the full and equal enjoyment of goods,
22 services, facilities, privileges of public facilities by the disabled, and those individuals
23 associated with or accompanied by a person with disabilities, and prohibiting discrimination
24 against the disabled. Plaintiff, therefore, seeks recovery in this lawsuit for all reasonable
25 attorneys' fees incurred pursuant to the provisions of **California Civil Code** §55. Additionally,
26 Plaintiff's lawsuit is intended not only to obtain compensation for damages to Plaintiff, but also
27 to compel the defendants to make their goods, services, facilities and privileges available and
28 accessible to all members of the public with physical disabilities, justifying public interest

1 attorneys' fees pursuant to the provisions of **California Code of Civil Procedure** §1021.5.

2 58. The acts and omissions of defendants in failing to provide the required
3 accessible facilities subsequent to the enactment date and compliance date of the **Americans**
4 **with Disabilities Act of 1990**, and refusal to make remedial modifications and alterations to its
5 handicapped parking, handicapped signage, pathways, and other elements as hereinabove
6 stated, after being notified by patrons before and after the time of Plaintiff's visit and injuries,
7 on or about June 22, 2009, and all times prior thereto with the knowledge that persons with
8 disabilities would enter defendants' premises, the reason given therefor, was an established
9 policy, practice and procedure of refusing and denying entry, thereby denying services to a
10 person with disabilities and the companions thereof, evidence malice and oppression toward
11 Plaintiff and other disabled persons.

12 59. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief pursuant to **California Civil Code** §55 to require
13 Defendants to comply with federal and state access regulations.

14 60. Defendants have failed to establish a nondiscriminatory criteria, policy, practice
15 and procedure for entry into said "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" as hereinabove described.

16 61. As a result of defendants' continuing failure to provide for the full and equal
17 enjoyment of goods, services, facilities and privileges of said "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**"
18 as hereinabove described, Plaintiff has continually been denied his rights to full and equal
19 enjoyment of the subject restaurant, as it would be a "futile gesture" to attempt to patronize
20 said "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" with the discriminatory policy in place as hereinabove
21 described.

22 62. The acts and omissions of defendants as complained of herein in failing to
23 provide the required accessible facilities subsequent to the enactment date and compliance
24 date of the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** and refusal to make remedial
25 modifications and alternations to the architectural barriers as stated herein and in failing to
26 establish practices, policies and procedures to allow safe access by persons who are disabled
27 are continuing on a day-to-day basis to have the effect of wrongfully and willfully excluding
28 Plaintiff and other members of the public who are disabled from full and equal enjoyment of the

subject "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" as hereinabove described. Such acts and omissions are the continuing cause of humiliation and mental and emotional suffering of Plaintiff in that these actions continue to treat Plaintiff as an inferior and second class citizen and serve to discriminate against him on the sole basis that he is disabled. Plaintiff is unable, so long as such acts and omissions of defendants continue, to achieve full and equal enjoyment of the goods and services of said "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" as described hereinabove. The acts of defendants have legally caused and will continue to cause irreparable injury to Plaintiff if not enjoined by this court.

63. Wherefore, Plaintiff asks this court to preliminarily and permanently enjoin any continuing refusal by defendants to permit entry to said "**TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5**" and to serve Plaintiff or others similarly situated, and to require defendants to comply forthwith with the applicable statutory requirements relating to the full and equal enjoyment of goods and services as described hereinabove for disabled persons. Such injunctive relief is provided by **California Civil Code** §55. Plaintiff further requests that the court award statutory costs and attorneys' fees to Plaintiff pursuant to **California Civil Code** §55 and **California Code of Civil Procedure** §1021.5, all as hereinafter prayed for.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for compensatory damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, as allowed by statute and according to proof.

IV. FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATIONS OF *UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT*
(*California Civil Code* §§51 and 51.5)

64. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 63 of this Complaint and incorporates them herein as if separately repled.

65. Defendants' acts and omissions as specified with regard to the discriminatory treatment of Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**, on the basis of his disabilities, have been in violation of **California Civil Code** §§51 and 51.5, the **Unruh Civil Rights Act**, and have denied to Plaintiff his rights to "full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever."

66. **California Civil Code** §51 also provides that “[a] violation of the right of any individual under the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** (Public Law 101-336) shall also constitute a violation of this section.”

67. **California Civil Code** §51.5 also provides that

“[n]o business establishment of any kind whatsoever shall discriminate against, boycott, or blacklist, refuse to buy from, sell to, or trade with any person in this state because of the race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability of the person or of the person’s partners, members, stockholders, directors, officers, managers, superintendents, agents, employees, business associates, suppliers, or customers.”

68. As a result of the violation of Plaintiff’s civil rights protected by **California Civil Code** §§51 and 51.5, Plaintiff is entitled to the rights and remedies of **California Civil Code** §52, including a trebling of actual damages (defined by **California Civil Code** §52(h) to mean “special and general damages”), as well as reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, as allowed by statute, according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this court award damages and provide relief as follows:

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff prays that this court award damages and provide relief as follows:

1. Grant injunctive relief requiring that defendants establish a non-discriminatory criteria policy, practice and procedure permitting entry into the **TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5** in South San Francisco, California, for the purpose of obtaining the goods and services accorded therein according to **California Civil Code** §§51, 51.5, 52, 54, 54.1, 54.3, and 55, *et seq.*, and Title III of the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, and grant injunctive relief requiring that Defendants repair and render safe to disabled persons, and otherwise make accessible, all public areas of the restaurant, including, but not limited to, each of the barriers to access identified in Paragraph 4, above, and make such facilities “readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities” according to the standards of Title 24 of the **California Administrative Code**, **California Health & Safety Code** § 19955 *et seq.*, and Title III of the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** and the standards of **ADAAG**; and prohibiting

1 operation of the **TAQUERIA EL FAROLITO #5** located in South San Francisco, California, as
2 a public facility until Defendants provide full and equal enjoyment of goods and services as
3 described hereinabove to disabled persons, including Plaintiff;

4 2. General damages according to proof;

5 3. Statutory and "actual" damages, including general damages and special
6 damages, according to proof, pursuant to **California Civil Code** §§52, and 54.3, and that
7 these damages be trebled;

8 4. Prejudgment interest on all compensatory damages;

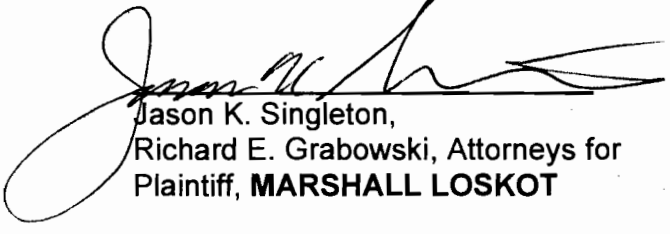
9 5. Remedies and Procedures available under **Americans with Disabilities Act of**
10 **1990** §§107, 203 and 308;

11 6. Award Plaintiff all litigation expenses, all costs of this proceeding and all
12 reasonable attorneys' fees as provided by law, including, but not limited to, those recoverable
13 pursuant to the provisions of **California Civil Code** §§52, 54.3, and 55, **California Code of**
14 **Civil Procedure** §1021.5, and **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** §308 of Title III; and

15 7. Grant such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

16 **SINGLETON LAW GROUP**

17 Dated: September 14, 2009

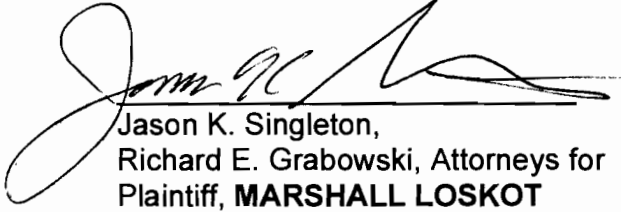
18 
19 Jason K. Singleton,
20 Richard E. Grabowski, Attorneys for
21 Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**

22 **REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL**

23 Plaintiff hereby requests a jury for all claims for which a jury is permitted.

24 **SINGLETON LAW GROUP**

25 Dated: September 14, 2009

26 
27 Jason K. Singleton,
28 Richard E. Grabowski, Attorneys for
Plaintiff, **MARSHALL LOSKOT**